

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of visualizing business agreement interactions, the  
2 method comprising:  
3       dividing, by a computer, parties into at least three types;  
4       displaying, by the computer, one or more parties of a first type as nodes in a first region  
5 of a view window;  
6       displaying, by the computer, one or more parties of a second type as nodes in a second  
7 region of the view window;  
8       displaying one or more parties of a third type as nodes in a third region of the view  
9 window, wherein the third region is at least substantially between the first and second regions;  
10 and  
11       displaying, by the computer, agreements between parties as lines between corresponding  
12 nodes.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more parties of the first type are  
2 suppliers for the one or more parties of the third type.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more parties of the second type are  
2 customers for the one or more parties of the third type.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first region is an arc of a circle, and  
2 wherein the second region is an opposing arc of the circle.
- 1 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the third region is a circle diameter that  
2 separates the first and second regions.
- 1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the third region is a line separating the first  
2 and second regions.

1 7. (Previously Presented) Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said lines  
2 are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative of whether a violation of a corresponding  
3 one of the agreements has occurred.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one characteristic is color.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one characteristic is animation.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one characteristic is  
2 further indicative of a violation severity, wherein different characteristics associated with said  
3 lines are indicative of corresponding different violation severities.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 displaying a hierarchical tree of business agreement information; and  
3 highlighting associated items in the view window as a user selects items in the  
4 hierarchical tree.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 displaying agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the first type and a  
3 particular party of the third type as parallel lines in one window region;  
4 displaying agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the second type and  
5 the particular party of the third type as parallel lines in a second window region; and  
6 changing one or more of the parallel lines as a function of time to display violations as a  
7 function of time.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A method of visualizing business agreement interactions, the  
2 method comprising:  
3 displaying, by a computer, agreement conditions between a first party and one or more  
4 parties of a first type as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in one region of a view  
5 window; and  
6 displaying, by the computer, agreement conditions between the first party and one or  
7 more parties of a second type as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in a second  
8 region of a view window,  
9 wherein said lines are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative of whether a  
10 violation of a represented agreement condition has occurred.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the first party is represented by a  
2 line separating the first region from the second region, and wherein the first party is a third type  
3 of party different from the first and second types.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one characteristic is color.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said displaying actions are animated to show  
2 a violation occurrence sequence over time.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one characteristic is  
2 further indicative of a violation severity, wherein different characteristics associated with said  
3 lines are indicative of corresponding different violation severities.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising changing the view window as a  
2 function of time to display a time sequence of violations.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein parties of the first type are  
2 suppliers of the first party, and wherein parties of the second type are customers of the ~~second~~  
3 first party.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein agreement conditions between the parties  
2 are shown as a time series to indicate an order in which violations occur.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~configured to provide~~  
2 containing software for visualizing business agreement interactions to a computer, wherein the  
3 software when executed causes the computer to:

4 divide parties into at least three types;

5 display one or more parties of a first type as nodes in a first region of a view window;

6 display one or more parties of a second type as nodes in a second region of the view  
7 window;

8 display one or more parties of a third type as nodes in a third region of the view window,  
9 wherein the third region is at least substantially between the first and second regions; and

10 display agreements between parties as lines between corresponding nodes.

1 22. (Original) The medium of claim 21, wherein the one or more parties of the first type are  
2 suppliers for the one or more parties of the third type, and wherein the one or more parties of the  
3 second type are customers for the one or more parties of the third type.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 21, wherein said lines are displayed with at  
2 least one characteristic indicative of whether a violation of a corresponding one of the  
3 agreements has occurred.

1 24. (Original) The medium of claim 21, wherein the software further configures the  
2 computer to:  
3 display agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the first type and a  
4 particular party of the third type as parallel lines in one window region;  
5 display agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the second type and the  
6 particular party of the third type as parallel lines in a second window region; and  
7 change one or more of the parallel lines as a function of time to display violations as a  
8 function of time.

1 25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~configured to provide~~  
2 containing software for visualizing business agreement interactions to a computer, wherein the  
3 software when executed causes the computer to:  
4 display agreement conditions between a first party and one or more parties of a first type  
5 as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in one region of a view window; and  
6 display agreement conditions between the first party and one or more parties of a second  
7 type as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in a second region of a view window,  
8 wherein said lines are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative of whether a  
9 violation of a represented agreement condition has occurred.

1 26. (Original) The medium of claim 25, wherein the first party is represented by a line  
2 separating the first region from the second region.

1 27. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the different characteristics are different colors  
2 that are indicative of corresponding different violation severities.

1 28. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the different characteristics are different colors  
2 that are indicative of corresponding different violation severities.

1 29. (New) The medium of claim 23, wherein the lines having different characteristics are  
2 indicative of different corresponding violation severities.

- 1 30. (New) The medium of claim 25, wherein the lines having different characteristics are
- 2 indicative of different corresponding violation severities.